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REVIEWS

The Ann Arbor (Michigan) Folio. BY FRANK LEVERETT. 15 folio pages of text and 3 maps. U. S. Geol. Surv., 1908. *Geologische Streifzüge in Heidelbergs Umgebung.* Von Dr. Julius Ruska. Eine Einführung in die Hauptfragen der Geologie auf Grund der Bildungsgeschichte des oberrheinischen Gebirgssystems. Pp. xi and 208 with numerous original views, maps, and sections. Nägele, Leipzig, 1908.

How often has the university professor felt the need of a convenient printed discussion of essentially local geological problems to which he can refer the student—something not too brief or so diluted as to distort the facts, but an adequate and readable presentation which the earnest student may turn to as a guide. In America this want has in a few instances been met by the geological folio of the university district, and whatever may be said of this form of publication with its endless duplications as applied wholesale throughout the country, it cannot be denied that as an aid to geological instruction at universities through description of the local geology it meets a real need.

The Ann Arbor folio and the German booklet referred to above are alike successful efforts in the direction indicated; the one for a great American university, the other for the oldest German university and the one which many American geologists claim as a second *alma mater*.

The American publication has the luxurious dress of its class, but suffers from its ungainly proportions, particularly when it is carried into the field. Its mechanical construction, while an aid to ready reference, detracts somewhat from the interest of perusal. Fortunately in this instance a most serious objection to the folio system—the patchwork truncation of the area by the accidents of quadrangle limits—is not serious, since Ann Arbor falls almost exactly in the center of the sheet.

The geological interest in the area is very largely restricted to the glacial and post-glacial history, and the significant distribution of the drift deposits with their modification in lake shores, has here been treated by one of our best authorities in that field. The whole subject of post-Wisconsin lake history, as applied to the Michigan area, is here for the first time comprehensively treated in an easily accessible publication. Excellent original

maps serve to set forth in sequence the many stages in this history, including that of the newly discovered Lake Arkona.

The book by Professor Ruska of Heidelberg is an initial attempt to meet a like demand at the German university. Dr. Ruska has the gift of literary style and the ability to present his subject in attractive form without loss of scientific accuracy. Different geological formations and significant surface features come each in turn under discussion in connection with well-planned excursions from Heidelberg. No less than 138 illustrations, many of them original and all well chosen, make the eye the pathway to the mind. Professor Ruska not only knows his field, but he has shown excellent judgment in selecting and arranging his material.

W. H. H.

Rocks and Rock Minerals. By LOUIS V. PIRSSON, Professor of Physical Geology, Yale University. 12mo, pp. 414. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1908.

The new petrology by Professor Pirsson is a volume whose merits are more fully appreciated when one considers the difficulties inherent in the subject, not the least of which is that of classification. If it be remembered that the early and simple classifications based on megascopic characters have gradually become more and more complicated as microscopical investigations progressed until at present they cannot be satisfactorily used without the microscope, it may be admitted that a simplified classification for field work and similar uses has become extremely desirable. The classification adopted in the new work is essentially the same as the "field classification" first proposed in connection with the Quantitative Classification of Igneous Rocks, of Cross, Iddings, Pirsson, and Washington in 1903. On this basis Pirsson has succeeded in presenting in attractive style not merely the major facts of petrology, but also an excellent description of those things which give the science life and human interest. Thus, he not only defines a given rock from every point of view, but he describes its mode of occurrence, its alteration products, its various uses, and, frequently, its relation to ore deposits.

The book is, of course, not adapted to the needs of the geologist and petrographer, but to those of engineering and general students whose knowledge of the subject need not be profound. It is arranged in three parts: an introductory part of twenty pages dealing with the scope, history, and methods of petrology, and the chemical character of the earth's crust: a second part of 112 pages describing briefly the rock-forming minerals and giving short tables for their determination; and the main part dealing with igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic rocks successively, and closing